

*The Making of a Custom Snakewood Oblique Penholder
for Dr. Joseph M. Vitolo by*
Chris Held, Pen Maker



Images by Chris Held, PDF compiled and created by Dr. Joseph M. Vitolo

Piratinera guianensis, commonly known as Snakewood



These two images were taken from the internet.

12 $\frac{3}{4}$ x $\frac{3}{4}$ " pen blank chosen to make this pen. This pen blank weighed a third of a pound.



Set into a four jaw chuck and live end tail stock for balanced, smooth turning.



The blank is first rounded.



The end of the pen is determined



Spinning at 1500 RPM some contours of the pen are being created.



Rough cut is done. now it's time to add some flair!



Some freehand flourishing done with the chisel to help decorate the pen and give it some style.



A close-up shows the fine shavings from the wood being so dense. These shavings are not much thicker than thread.



The pen staff is now sanded with 400 grit paper while spinning at 1750 RPM



Excess wood is cut off at the tail stock to allow the finishing of the finial.



Once cut from the lathe a slot is cut into the pen in order to receive a brass flange.



The flange is glued into place with a dummy nib inserted to aid in the coating process.



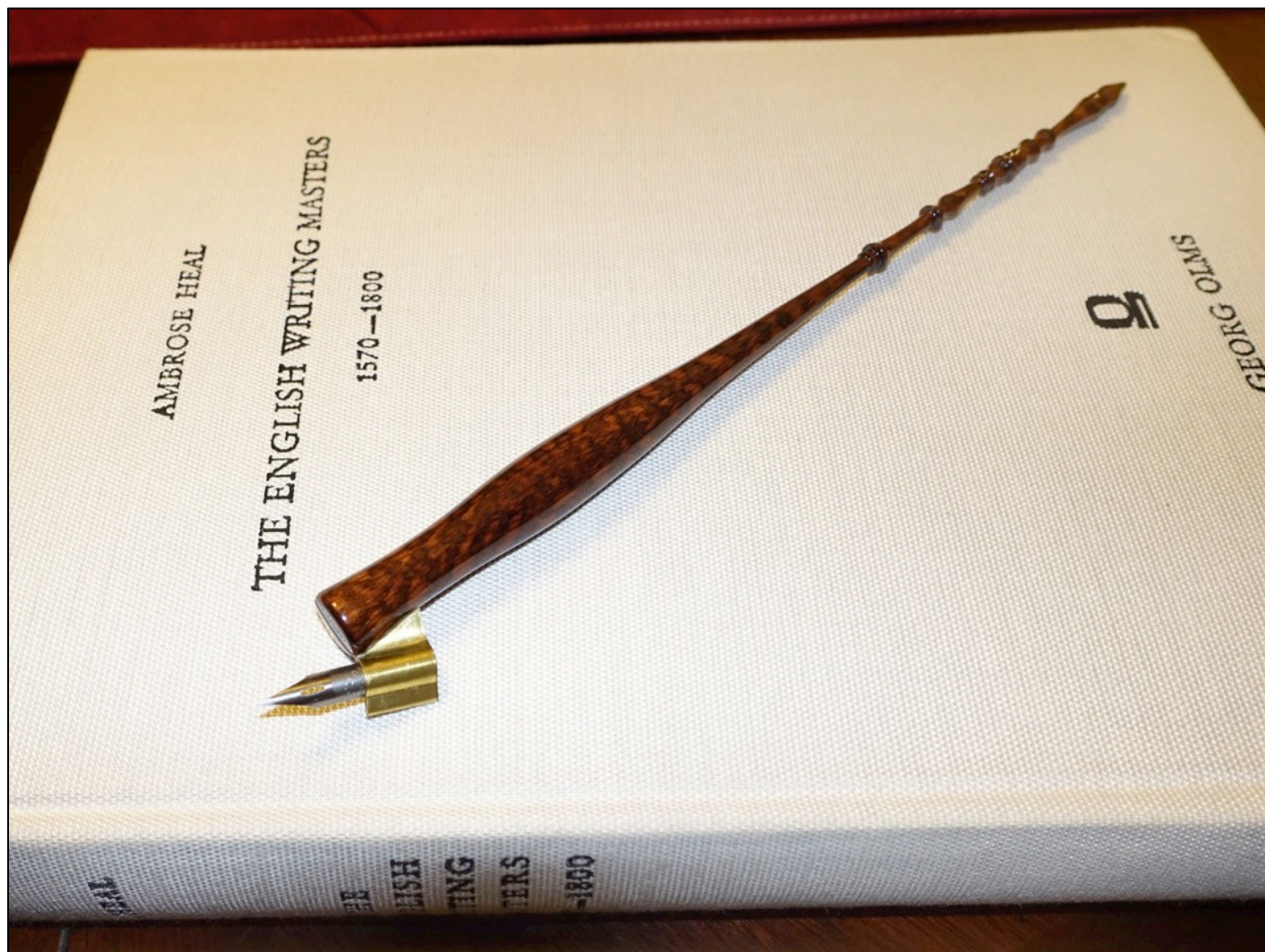
Here is the finished Snakewood oblique penholder after 10 coats of lacquer finish!



Close up on the intricate turning on the tail:



Here is the finished Snakewood oblique penholder after 10 coats of lacquer finish!



Here are some additional oblique penholders made by Chris. Some were hand-painted by Chris' wife, Penman and Engrosser Heather Victoria Held.



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